

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Title of the Invention on page 1, line 1, of the specification with the following.

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BOOTSTRAP CIRCUIT FOR SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES

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Please delete the section title DESCRIPTION from page 1, line 3, of the specification.

Please add the following after the Title of the Invention on page 1, line 1, of the specification.

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/IT2002/000478 filed on July 19, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

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Please add the following section heading before page 1, line 7, of the specification.

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2. Description of Related Art

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Please replace the entire paragraph on page 1, lines 7-11, of the specification, with the following.

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Most of the control integrated circuits for switching power supplies require for their starting a current to charge a capacity of the self supply circuit of the integrated circuit. Such current comes from the starting circuit or also known as the bootstrap circuit (start-up), constituted in the simplest case by a resistance connected to the supply line.

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Please add the following before page 2, line 4, of the specification.

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Therefore, a need exists to overcome the problems with the prior art as discussed above.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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Please add the following section heading before page 3, line 2, of the specification.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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Please add the following section heading before page 3, line 14, of the specification.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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Please replace the entire paragraph on page 3, lines 14-18, of the specification, with the following.

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Referring now to Figure 1, that shows a block scheme of a switching power supply comprising a starting circuit (or bootstrap circuit) 13 according to a first embodiment of the known art, a circuit 10 of rectification and filtration of the main supply, a self supply circuit 12 and a control circuit 11 of the circuit 10 of rectification and filtration of the main supply.

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Please add the following paragraph sentence right after page 8, line 17, of the specification.

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What is claimed is:

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